

Types of Dressings

This list is not all inclusive. Please follow manufacturer's recommendations.

Transparent film dressings: Waterproof and impermeable to bacteria and contaminants. Provides a moist, healing environment, promotes autolytic debridement and protects from mechanical trauma and bacterial invasion. Applying a skin protectant to surrounding skin is advised. Visualization is possible with transparent dressings. They are flexible making them easy to conform to difficult locations like the heels and elbows. Not advised for a wet wound as they do not absorb.

Uses: Skin tears, second degree burns, IV sites, donor sites, lacerations, abrasions, partial thickness wounds.

Examples of products: Tegaderms, DermaView, Opsite, Polyskin, Hydrofilm, Repara, Bioclusive Plus and Select



Impregnated Dressings: Gauzes and non-woven sponges, ropes and strips that are saturated with a solution, emulsion or oil. Commonly saline, zinc salts, oil, petrolatum, xerofoam and scarlet red. Not for use with dry wounds. DO NOT USE OVER EXPOSED BONE OR TENDON. Change daily.

Examples of products: Curad oil emulsion gauze, such as xerofoam non-occlusive, mesalt sodium chloride impregnated and cuticell

Hydrogels: Available in sheets or gels, water or glycerin based. Maintains moisture and provides autolytic debridement. Sheets protect wound borders.

Uses: Full or partial thickness wounds, necrotic wounds, radiation damaged tissue. Do not use with exudating wounds. Easy application and removal. Requires secondary dressing.

Examples of products: Normlgel, Dermagel, Clearsite

Collagens: Derived from bovine, porcine or avian sources, some interact with exudate to form a gel, requires secondary dressing.

Uses: Partial and full thickness pressure ulcers, venous ulcers, donor sites, surgical wounds, vascular ulcers, diabetic ulcers, second degree burns, abrasions and traumatic wounds.

Examples of products: Promogran Prisma Matrix, Promogran, Endoform

Calcium Alginates: Dressings made from seaweed. Can absorb 15-30 times their weight. Easy and effective to use. Secondary dressing is required. Absorbs drainage while keeping wounds moist. Maceration may occur if extends onto skin. Cut to fit wound bed.

Uses: Moderate to highly exudating wounds, pressure ulcers, venous stasis ulcers, tunneling, venous ulcers, packing wounds or use AG (silver impregnated) for infected wounds.

Examples of products: Aquacel, Aquacel AG, Sorbion, Medihoney, Repara, Restore, Maxsorb, Silvervel, Kaltostat, Tegaderm, Sorbion, Medihoney Calcium Alginate



Composites: Wound covers that combine distinct components into a single product to provide multiple functions such as a bacterial barrier, absorption and adhesion. Can function as a primary or secondary dressing on a variety of wounds.

Examples of products: *Opsite post-op, Stratasorb, Repel, Telfa, DremaDress, Mepore, Suresite*

Contact layers: Thin, non-adherent sheets designed to protect the wound bed from direct contact with other dressings, conform to shape of wound, allows exudate to flow through to secondary dressings.

Uses: Partial and full thickness wounds, under compression wraps, donor sites, infected wounds, use with topical medications.

Examples of products: *Mepitel One, Profore, Meplix, Adaptic Touch*

Elastic Bandages: Stretch and conform to body contours, made of cotton, polyester, rayon or nylon. Can provide absorption as a second layer or dressing, hold wound cover in place, apply pressure or cushion wound.

Uses: Secure IV's and dressings, splints, or provider mild compression for strains, sprains, and edema.

Examples of products: *Coban, ACE wraps, Co-flex, abdominal binders*

Foam Dressings: They are capable of absorbing exudate and can be used as primary or secondary dressings. Many foam dressings have silicone adhesives that are waterproof and Allevyn Gentle has a silicone border that can be reapplied if needing to assess wound. It is important to keep foam inside the wound bed, if outside, this can cause maceration. Silver foam is available for infected wounds.

Uses: Moderate to highly exuding wounds, infected wounds, protection of bony prominences, used under compression dressings. Not for use in dry or superficial wounds.

Examples of products: *Mepilex, Allevyn, Restore, Polymen, Xtrasorb, Optifoam, Hydrofera Blue*



Hydrocolloids: Used for light to moderately exuding wound. Wafers made from cellulose, gelatin, pectin and elastomers. The wafer is fixed to a semipermeable sheet and applied directly to the skin. They are waterproof and wear time can be up to 7 days. Mold well. Comfortable for patients unless rolling occurs which requires a dressing change.

Uses: Partial thickness ulcers, bony prominences, necrotic wounds, under compression wraps, pressure ulcers, and venous ulcers.

Examples of products: *Duoderm, Comfeel, Medihoney, Xtrasorb, Exderm, Nuderm, Restore*



Wound Cavity Fillers: Maintains moist environment and manages exudates.

Uses: Full and Partial thickness wounds, infected wounds, draining and deep wounds that require packing.

Examples of products: *Polymen WIC, Curad plain packing strip*

Dry Wound	Minimal Exudate	Moderate Exudate	Heavy Exudate
Non adherent island dressing	Hydrogel	Calcium alginate	Hydrofiber
Hydrocolloid	Hydrocolloid	Hydrofiber	Foam
Films-Semi Permeable	Silicone absorbent	Foams	Absorbent dressing
		Hydrocolloid: paste/powder	Ostomy bags
			Negative Pressure Wound Therapy

<http://www.woundsource.com/product-category/dressings>

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